In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below. Please cancel claims 1-53 without prejudice.

1-53. (Cancelled)

54. (New) A method of compressing messages transmitted between a server and a wireless data processing device, the server providing a messaging service to a user, the method comprising:

receiving data at an interface from a said messaging service;

identifying at the interface whether the data is of a first message type or a second, different, message type, the first message type being an electronic mail (email) message corresponding to a user mailbox;

responsive to identification of the data being of the first message type:

identifying whether the email message comprises data corresponding to an email message previously stored on a wireless data processing device associated with the user mailbox so as to apply a first encoding procedure or a second, different, encoding procedure, the first encoding procedure comprising:

identifying a block of data within a message-body portion of the email message which is found in the previous email message;

generating a pointer identifying said block of data in said previous email message; and

replacing said block of data in the email message with said pointer, whereby to generate a compressed email message, and

transmitting said compressed email message to the wireless data processing device,

wherein said pointer identifies said block of data at a location in memory of the wireless data processing device.

55. (New) A method according to claim 54, in which the second encoding procedure comprises:

generating a first set of code words based on a frequency with which character strings represented by said code words are found within a header portion of the email message.

56. (New) A method according to claim 55, in which the second encoding procedure further comprises:

generating a second set of code words based on a frequency with which character strings represented by said code words are found within the message-body portion of the email message.

57. (New) A method according to claim 56, comprising:

encoding character strings in said header portion using the first code words; and

encoding character strings in said message-body portion using the second code words,

whereby to generate a compressed email message; and

transmitting said compressed email message to the wireless data processing device.

58. (New) A method according to claim 57, comprising:

generating a code word table containing a first code word table portion and a second code word table portion, the first code word table portion comprising the first code words and the second code word table portion comprising the second code words; and

transmitting the code word table to the wireless data processing device.

59. (New) A method according to claim 54, comprising applying the second encoding procedure and the first encoding procedure to the email message.

60. (New) A method according to claim 54, in which, responsive to identification of the received data being of the second message type, the method comprises:

identifying whether the received data comprises an address book message so as to apply a third encoding procedure thereto, the third encoding procedure comprising selectively encoding specified fields of the address book message, whereby to compress the address book message, the specified fields being a subset of the fields contained within the received data; and

transmitting the compressed address book message to the wireless data processing device.

61. (New) A method according to claim 60, further comprising:

generating a set of code words, each code word corresponding to a specified field of the address book message and being generated based on a frequency with which a character string represented by said code word is found within the specified field of the address book message; and

transmitting the set of code words to the wireless data processing device.

62. (New) A method according to claim 61, further comprising encoding character strings in each specified field using a respective code word of the set.

63. (New) A method according to claim 54, in which data items common to a message of the first type and to a message of the second type are encoded differently dependent on the type of message.

64. (New) A method according to claim 63, wherein said data items include an email address in a header portion of an email message and an email address forming a field of an address book message.

64. (New) A server system for compressing messages transmitted to a wireless data processing device, the server system providing a messaging service to a user, the server system comprising:

an interface configured to receive data from a said messaging service;

a compression module configured to identify whether the data is of a first message type or a second, different, message type, the first message type being an electronic mail (email) message corresponding to a user mailbox,

wherein, responsive to identification of the data being of the first message type, the compression module is configured to:

identify whether the email message comprises data corresponding to an email message previously stored on a wireless data processing device associated with the user mailbox so as to apply a first encoding procedure or a second, different, encoding procedure, the first encoding procedure comprising:

identifying a block of data within a message-body portion of the email message which is found in the previous email message;

generating a pointer identifying said block of data in said previous email message; and

replacing said block of data in the email message with said pointer, whereby to generate a compressed email message; and

transmit said compressed email message to the wireless data processing device,

wherein said pointer identifies said block of data at a location in memory of the wireless data processing device.

65. (New) A server system according to claim 64, wherein the compression module is configured to encode data items common to a message of the first type and to a message of the second type differently dependent on the type of message.

66. (New) A computer readable storage medium encoded with computer program instructions executable by a computing system to implement a method of compressing messages transmitted to a wireless data processing device, the method comprising:

receiving data at an interface from a said messaging service;

identifying at the interface whether the data is of a first message type or a second, different, message type, the first message type being an electronic mail (email) message corresponding to a user mailbox;

responsive to identification of the data being of the first message type:

identifying whether the email message comprises data corresponding to an email message previously stored on a wireless data processing device associated with the user mailbox so as to apply a first encoding procedure or a second, different, encoding procedure, the first encoding procedure comprising:

identifying a block of data within a message-body portion of the email message which is found in the previous email message;

generating a pointer identifying said block of data in said previous email message; and

replacing said block of data in the email message with said pointer, whereby to generate a compressed email message; and

transmitting said compressed email message to the wireless data processing device,

wherein said pointer identifies said block of data at a location in memory of the wireless data processing device.